

Scottish botanist W. Lauder Lindsay. In a letter to him from Gilgal, Perth, in January 1873⁶ Lindsay offered assistance in the preparations for his New Zealand excursion. In addition to giving Berggren a dossier on New Zealanders of scientific inclination in the four centres, he sent letters of introduction and support to both London and New Zealand on the Swede's behalf. With pleasant memories of his own visit to Otago in 1861 – he was an honorary member of the Otago and Canterbury Institutes – he strongly recommended making headquarters in Dunedin with Otago the principal field of endeavour, although the latter suggestion in view of Berggren's particular interest in mosses would seem a rather restrictive proposal.

From the office of the Agent-General, Walter Buller wrote at length in May 1873.⁷ He suggested that as mosses were Berggren's main concern '... you could not do better in the North Island than explore the broken wooded country in the southern portion of the Wellington Province...' In response to a query from Berggren about the centre of the Island, Buller assured him there would be no difficulty in reaching Taupo 'the only two requisites being a native guide to show the way and a pack horse to carry blankets and provisions...' He recommended going north by the Upper Rangitikei and offered a letter of introduction to his brother-in-law Gilbert Mair in Rotorua, although in view of Berggren's unfavourable impression of Mair⁸ it is unlikely to have been used. In the South Island Buller recommended Christchurch as the appropriate centre from which to visit the Southern Alps and the West Coast.

A letter of welcome from James Hector⁹ awaited his arrival in Lyttelton, which was marked by some encouraging press comments. The *Wellington Independent*, echoing the *Press*, took note: 'The arrival in the colony of a Professor of Botany, even though he be a countryman of Linnaeus, is in these times a circumstance so different from the ordinary incidents of current consideration, and is apparently of such small import compared with the landing of a ship-load of laborers, locomotives, or railway plant, that it is not unlikely to pass unnoticed... Dr Berggren arrived on Tuesday last and intends to make a stay of twelve months... He has decided to make Canterbury his headquarters...' ¹⁰

After some weeks of work in the vicinity of Christchurch and no doubt close induction by Haast he set out for the Coast on 31 January armed with letters of introduction from his friend and with a pack-horse and packman Ben recommended by Haast. Across the plains under Mount Torlesse he stayed two nights at Castle Hill Station¹¹ with J. D. G. Enys, a keen amateur naturalist who acted as host to a number of distinguished scientific visitors. On 15 February they reached Arthur's Pass. Apart from the vegetation, the steepness of the